

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schakowsky, Matsui, and McKinley:

I write, on behalf of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and its 120,000 members, to express NASW's support for the Geriatrics Workforce and Caregiver Enhancement Act (H.R. 3713) and to thank you for introducing this important legislation.

As the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the country, NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its 120,000 members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. Integral to that mission is advocacy both for older adults and for the social workers who serve older adults.

NASW has long maintained that coordinated, team-based care improves health outcomes for older adults. The Geriatrics Workforce and Caregiver Enhancement Act promotes such care by supporting two critical objectives:

- The bill establishes formal funding for the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) at the \$51 million level. Social workers are among the professionals eligible for training through GWEP. Moreover, social workers benefit from interdisciplinary training with other professionals, direct care workers, and family caregivers.
- The bill reestablishes the Geriatric Academic Career Awards (GACA), a previously funded program for developing academic clinical educators specializing in aging. Clinical social workers are among the professionals eligible for GACA.

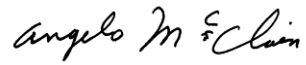
As you know, GWEP is the only federal program dedicated to developing a health care workforce that maximizes the engagement of older adults and family caregivers while improving health outcomes. Realizing these objectives is essential to ensuring that all of us have access to high-quality health care as we age.

NASW is pleased to collaborate with you in advocating for passage of the Geriatrics Workforce and Caregiver Enhancement Act. In addition to joint advocacy with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, NASW will mobilize its

100,000 Legislative Advocacy Network to urge their Congressional representatives to support H.R. 3713. We will forward a link to that advocacy alert when it becomes available.

Thank you, again, for your leadership to enhance the health of older adults by strengthening the health care workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelo McClain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.

Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW
Chief Executive Officer